

INTERNAL USE ONLY

18 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CQ Inquiry Concerning National Reconnaissance Office

1. Around six o'clock last night a Mr. Bender who identified himself as a writer for "Congressional Quarterly" referred to S. Report 93-466 which contained a recommendation from the Special Committee to Study Questions Related to Secret and Confidential Government Documents that the Appropriations Committee itemize in the DOD Appropriations bill the total sums proposed to be appropriated for intelligence activities by a number of agencies including the National Reconnaissance Office. Bender said his senior editor had asked him to find out what government agency was responsible for the National Reconnaissance Office. Bender said he had made a number of calls including to Defense and the Special Committee but that he had gotten no satisfaction except that NRO was contained in a listing given by Senator McClellan to the Special Committee, attributing that information to a staff member of the Special Committee. Bender asked if I could answer the question and I agreed to give him a call tomorrow.

2. Today after several misses I contacted Bender and told him that I was sorry but I could be of no help. Bender tried to draw me out on whether this meant that I was informed but could not give him the information because it was classified, saying that he would have no resort but to report my comment and let the readers draw their own conclusion. Bender added that he had talked to Guy McConnell of the Senate Appropriations Committee staff who said that the Agency had been in contact with him subsequent to Bender's conversation with me last night. Bender said that he had made thirteen telephone calls but was going around in circles with a result that this provided a more interesting story line than the identity of the agency responsible for the NRO.

3. In response to my off-the-record question, Bender said he had had several conversations with the Special Committee staff and had to come to the conclusion that the Committee report dealing with the proper handling of classified information had made a recommendation concerning the NRO but, in fact, knew nothing about the NRO.



Associate Legislative Counsel

STATINTL !

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JMM,

You might be interested in this memorandum closing out the question from Congressional Quarterly concerning the NRO.

You may be interested in reporting on the last paragraph at the nine o'clock meeting.



LLM

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